

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 remain in the case.

The Examiner has relied upon the newly-cited U.S. Patent to Ishihara No. 6,426,736 in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) set forth in paragraphs 2, 13, and 15 of the Detailed Action. The Ishihara patent shows an effective filing date of December 23, 1999. Applicant has previously claimed priority of Swedish Application No. 9900908-6 filed in Sweden March 12, 1999. With the present Reply, applicant is submitting an English translation of this priority document to overcome the effective date of the Ishihara patent and thereby withdraw it as a reference against the claims herein. See MPEP § 201.15. This submission is not to be construed as an admission that the Ishihara patent is relevant or that it makes obvious any claim herein, whether taken alone or in combination.

With Ishihara removed as a reference, claims 1-3, 7-13, 15, and 18 stand rejected under van Ketwich alone; claims 4, 5, and 19 under van Ketwich in view of Armstrong; and claims 16 and 17 under van Ketwich in view of Zenk, all of record. All three rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons previously advanced and which are specifically incorporated by reference herein, including, but not limited to, in the Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2004 and the Request for Reconsideration filed June 7, 2005. As understood, it was the inadequate teachings in these patents that caused the Examiner to search further and find the Ishihara patent.

In this regard, the Examiner is requested to refer to the telephonic interview he graciously permitted with the undersigned attorney on August 18, 2005. Following the interview, and as stated in the Response to Interview Summary filed September 26, 2005, the Examiner was to conduct another search of the prior art and would allow the

claims if no prior art was found that was better than the art then of record. It is submitted that because the only new art cited by the Examiner is the withdrawn Ishihara patent, no prior art better than the art then of record has been found, and the allowance of all claims is now appropriate. Such allowance is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

In the present Office Action, page 2, paragraph 3, the Examiner refers to Figs. 3 and 8 of van Ketwich and states that the touch surface of van Ketwich is arranged on the edge side of the apparatus. As has been previously stated by applicant, these figures, as does Fig. 11, show touch screens arranged on the front side of the input device, not on any of the four edge sides. Nothing in van Ketwich suggests the positioning of a touch surface on an edge side of a device. Thus, van Ketwich, contrary to the Examiner's statement, does not disclose a touch surface arranged on the edge side of the apparatus. Similar, for reasons incorporated by reference hereinabove, the relevant art does not teach or suggest that placement of the touch surface is "a matter of routine design choice." (See Office Action, page 6, paragraph 14.)

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully solicited.

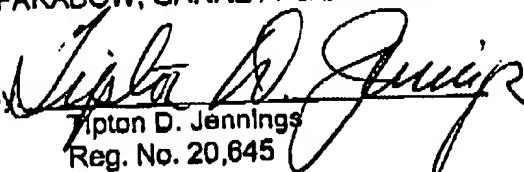
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Reply and charge any required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 24, 2006

By


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Attachment: Declaration and Certificate of English Translation of priority document (Swedish Patent Application No. 9900908-6)